

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2949

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY, TGEN, OSCI, IS

SUBJECT: US- ISRAEL BINATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

REF: STATE 068191

1. FOR BNF SUCCESSFULLY TO GET UNDERWAY, EMBASSY BELIEVES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHOULD BE FULL- TIME EMPLOYEE WITH BACKGROUND IN SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION WHO HAS CONFIDENCE OF ISRAELI SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND IS CAPABLE OF ALLOCATING AVAILABLE FUNDS OBJECTIVELY AND WITH MINIMUM FRICTION AMONGST POTENTIAL RECIPIENTS OF RESEARCH SUPPORT.

2. IF GOI PRESENTS DR. ELIEZER TAL' S CANDIDATURE AS FULL- TIME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EMBASSY CAN SUPPORT HIM FOR ALTHOUGH NOT RPT NOT STRONG NOR DYNAMIC PERSONALITY, HE IS SERIOUS AND CONSCIENTIOUS SCIENCE ADMINISTRATOR, HAS CONFIDENCE ISRAELI SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND CAN BE EXPECTED RUN BNF OBJECTIVELY AND AT MINIMUM COST. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, UNDERSTANDS TAL WILLING ACCEPT POSITION ON PART- TIME BASIS ONLY, STILL RETAINING RESPONSIBILITIES AS DIRECTOR, NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND DEPENDING ON DEPUTY DIRECTOR BNF TO HANDLE DAY- TO- DAY ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIRE- MENTS.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHOULD BE FULL- TIME JOB, MORE ESPECIALLY DURING EARLY YEARS WHEN ORGANIZATION WILL HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED, PERSONNEL HIRED, AND PROCEDURES AND PRECEDENTS SET UNDER WHICH ORGANIZATION WILL THEREAFTER OPERATE. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT TRYING OPERATE FOUNDATION
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OUT OF HIP POCKET WILL MILITATE AGAINST SOUND DEVELOPMENT OF FOUNDATION AND REQUEST TO THE ICCS FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATION IN THE AREA OF CO BI HAMLET ON THE BO RIVER ABOUT 12 KILOMETERS WEST NORTHWEST OF HUE, DURING WHICH RVN FORCES RECEIVED 774 MORTAR ROUNDS ON APRIL 8 AND 9 TH. ACCORDING TO POLOFF THUA THIEN/ QUANG TRI, CANDEL OIC CHARLEBOIS STATED THE TWO GVN REQUESTS FOLLOWED THE PROPER FORMAT BUT THAT THE ICCS TEAM WAS FULLY OCCUPIED WITH INVESTIGATING THE HELICOPTER DOWNING INCIDENT IN QUANG TRI. HOWEVER

THE INDODEL CHAIRMAN, COLONEL KARSANO, INDICATED THAT HE HAD CALLED A MEETING FOR THE EVENING OF APRIL 12 TO DISCUSS THE REQUESTS.

PART IV MR -2

1. ATTACKS BY FIRE CONTINUED TO PREDOMINATE, WITH VC COMMAND- DETONATED MINES ONLY OTHER TYPE OF INCIDENTS RECORDED. NEARLY ALL ACTIVITY OCCURRED IN NORTHERN BINH DINH.

2. BACKGROUND ON APRIL 10 ATTACK ON RF COMPANY IN KONTUM POLOFF INDICATES THAT NVA/ VC PRESENTLY CONTROL HIGH GROUND AND WANT TO KEEP IT SO AS TO SECURE AN EXTENSIVE NORTH- WEST TO SOUTHEAST SUPPLY AND INVLTRATION ROUTE. IN THIS CO- NECTION, ENEMY FORCES HAVE REPORTEDLY BEGUN CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE ACROSS DAK BLA RIVER WHICH GVN WOULD BE ABLE TO SHELL IF IT HELD HIGH GROUND. FROM OTHER NVA/ VC EXCHANGES WITH GVN IN AREA OF CHU PAO PASS, POLOFF SAYS, IT IS CLEAR THAT ENEMY ALSO WANTS ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH THIS SUPPLY ROUTE COULD CROSS HIGHWAY 14 WITHOUT GVN HARASSMENT.

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3. POLOFF SAYS GVN FOR ITS PART UNWILLING TO TOLERATE CONTINUING ENEMY CONTROL OF HIGH GROUND WSW OF KONTUM CITY. FOR THIS REASON, GVN IN CONTINUING RADIO EXCHANGES WITH ENEMY HAS PROPOSED MUTUAL PULL- BACK. SHOULD THIS PROPOSAL FAIL, POLOFF BELIEVES, GVN IS LIKELY TO UNDERTAKE STRONGER MEASURES WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY END STAND- DOWN THAT HAS PREVAILED IN AREA SINCE EVENING OF APRIL 10. GVN EQUALLY UNLIKELY TO GRANT NVA/ VC FREE CROSSING OF QL-14 IN CHU PAO AREA.

4. ENEMY INTERDICTION OF ROUTE 7- B IN PHU YEN PROVINCE CONTINUES. ONE CIVILIAN VEHICLE WAS ROCKETED AND ANOTHER STRUCK VC MINE ON APRIL 11. SECTOR MINE- CLEARING OPERATION THAT DAY FOUND

21 MINES AND DETONATED ANOTHER 22 ON APRIL 12, ALL ON 10- KM STRETCH EAST OF SON HOA DISTRICT HQ. GVN EFFORTS TO KEEP ROAD CLEAR HAVE BEEN HINDERED BY DEFECTIVE MINE- DETECTORS AND BY FAILURE OF LOCAL TERRITORIAL UNITS TO PATROL AGGRESSIVELY. VC CAN APPARENTLY EMPLACE NEW MINES EACH NIGHT WITH IMPUNITY.

5. ICCS REGION III (PLEIKU) HAS BEEN ACCEPTING COMPLAINTS FROM GVN ELEMENT OF TPJMC WITHOUT QUESTIONING THE ABSENCE OF THE PRG. GVN HAS IMPROVED QUALITY OF ITS WRITTEN COMPLAINTS AND IS NOW SUBMITTING ONLY THOSE VIOLATIONS FOR WHICH EVIDENCE IS READILY AVAILABLE. OF SEVERAL HUNDRED VIOLATIONS REPORTED TO PLEIKU FROM SEVEN PROVINCES OF TRUCE REGION III DURING PERIOD FROM MARCH 26 TO APRIL 4, GVN ELEMENT FORWARDED ONLY 14 TO ICCS. ALL HAVE MET EXACTING STANDARDS REQUESTED BY THE CANADIANS.

6. COLONEL NGUYEN VAN TRAN, WHO HEADS GVN REGIONAL TPJMC ELEMENT IN PLEIKU, TOLD POLOFFWYE IS QUITE SATISFIED WITH CALIBER OF OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO TPJMC BY VARIOUS SECTOR HQS. THERE ARE NO PLANS TO ROTATE ANY OF THE GVN PERSONNEL. TRAN HAS BEEN ADVISED BY SAIGON TO EXPECT PRG PERSONNEL AT REGIONAL LEVEL IN THE NOT- TOO- DISTANT FUTURE.

7. TWO INDOELS ON CAM RANH POE TEAM HAVE BEEN RECALLED TO PLEIKU. REASON FOR MOVE BELIEVED TO BE DEARTH OF SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITY. CAM RANH TEAM NOW CONSISTS OF TWO CANADIANS AND ONE NEWLY- ARRIVED HUNGARIAN LIEUTENANT.

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